

PREFACE

The 2011 edition of Current Research reflects the wide range of activities undertaken by the Geological Survey. The continuation of additional funding for geoscience mapping, announced in Budget 2008, enabled the Geological Survey to carry out seventeen field projects in various parts of the Province, along with several in-house projects of which three are described in this report.

Mineral deposits studies include reports on gold prospects in central and western Newfoundland and also in northern Labrador by Sandeman, host-rock alteration of base-metal prospects in central Newfoundland by John Hinchey, uranium mineralization in western and southern Newfoundland by Sparkes, as well as rare-earth elements in Newfoundland and Labrador and a review of rare-earth-element mineralization in the Province by Kerr. Bedrock-mapping projects include detailed stratigraphy and sedimentology of the Trinity area of eastern Newfoundland by Normore, and detailed stratigraphy and paleontology of western Newfoundland by Knight, Boyce and McCobb (National Museum of Wales). Van Nostrand and MacFarlane (Memorial University) describe, in detail the stratigraphy and structure of the Seal Lake Group in central Labrador, and Valley describes the geology of the Lac Le Sueur area, north of Churchill Falls. Amor reports on follow-up studies of four geochemical anomalies in Newfoundland and also on lake-sediment and water sampling in the Fraser Lake area, northeast of Churchill Falls, Labrador. A surficial mapping and till geochemical sampling project in the Gander area is described by Brushett. Ricketts reports on an aggregate-assessment project along the new section of the Trans-Labrador Highway, southeast of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and McConnell and Ricketts report on a high-density lake-sediment and water survey in southeastern Labrador carried out in 2006 and 2007.

In-house projects reported on include an update on the Geoscience Atlas, the Geological Survey's on-line geoscience database, by Honarvar; the Mineral Occurrence Data System (MODS) by Stapleton, Smith and Rafuse; an analysis and the value on the use of visible/infra-red spectrophotometry (VIRS) by Kerr, Rafuse, Sparkes, John Hinchey and Sandeman; and Gower describes the process that produced his recently published 25 geological maps of eastern Labrador.

The volume is supplemented by a review of the Core-Storage Program by Harris and Cochrane, and also a paper on the stratigraphy and paleontology of the St. Bride's area by Bullock and Morris of the University of Durham, UK.

This Current Research volume reflects, in part, the final year of the enhanced funding for geoscience announced in 2008. The outputs from this initiative have been significant and reflect the Geological Survey's ability to carry out and complete a wide range of geoscience projects. These projects are an investment and of value in mineral exploration and the understanding of the geological evolution of the Province. Also this information will help with the many decisions made by the government and industries on the use and development of the Province's natural resources.

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Readers who would like to write a rebuttal to, or discussion of, any report contained in this volume are invited to submit it to the editor by November 1, 2011, to be considered for inclusion in Report 2012-1.